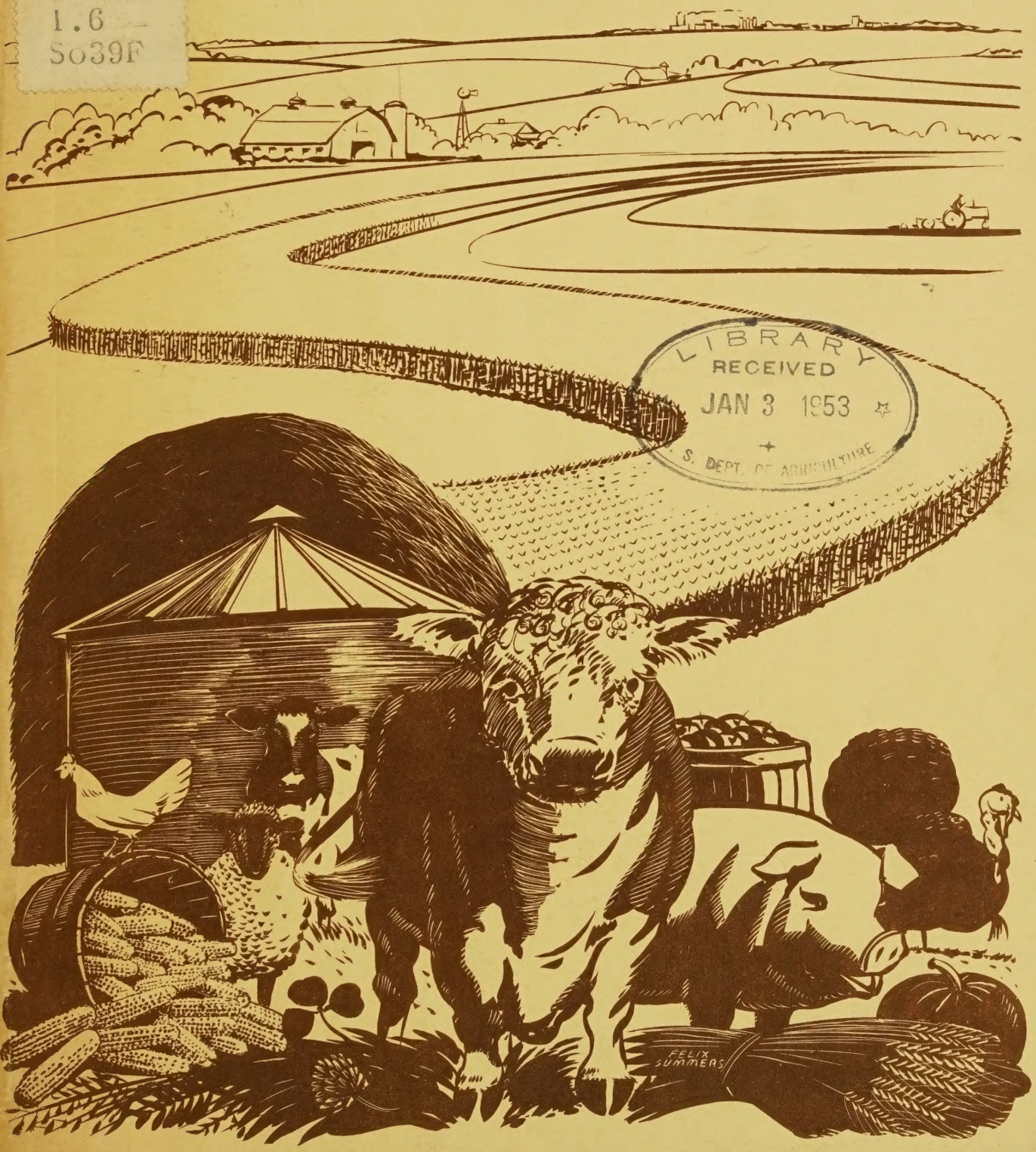
FIFTEEN FARMERS

FIND THE ANSWER



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tricts represent real home rule in soil conservation; that no one has ever attempted to dictate to them, and that the kind of technical assistance which can be secured only through districts has paid off in dollars and cents. In each of these four states there are other farmers who have not profited by district assistance because they haven't asked for it. This is the case in any voluntary program such as that of a soil conservation district. And this is the reason why these 15 farmers have been willing to tell the public about their own private business affairs so that others may realize how much they are missing.

U. S. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
In cooperation with the State Association of Soil Conservation Districts.

Mr. and Mrs. Perry W. McPheeters, Route Three, Baldwin, Kans., and daughters, Joanne (left), and Meredith.

"We didn't have the kind of technical assistance we needed before we organized our soil conservation district."

A GOOD DEAL of the farm Perry W. McPheeters owns near Baldwin, Kans., is steep, rolling land yet in 1951 he produced 306 pounds of net beef per total crop acre. All the feed for 50 yearlings McPheeters markets annually came from land which was badly eroded and low on fertility only seven years ago.

McPheeters bought the place, which is located three miles northeast of Baldwin, in 1945. The farm consists of 164 acres. Of this, only 30 acres is relatively level bottom land. The remainder has slopes running from eight up to 18 percent.

"This place was in terrible shape when I bought it," he said. "It had been rented for years and the land that could be cultivated had been planted to corn year after year. One piece had been in corn for 28 straight years. The first year my corn only made 30 bushels to the acre. Quite a lot of the land was overgrown with brush, too. I had 13 acres of brushy pasture and the whole farm would produce only enough feed for six or seven cows."

The year after McPheeters bought his run-down farm, farmers in the county organized a soil conservation district and asked the U. S. Soil Conservation Service to assign them technicians. Shortly afterward an SCS farm planner reported for duty.

Perry McPheeters was the fourth farmer in the district to apply for technical assistance, and with this new help he began developing a complete farm conservation plan.

He retired steep, eroded slopes from cultivation; terraced and developed the land into improved pasture. This program included 15 acres of over-grown land which had to be cleared. McPheeters built a mile and a half of terraces and began working into a soil-building rotation on the cropland.

Today he has 93 acres of crops and rotation

pasture. The rest of the land is in timber and creek bottom. In 1951 he grew 30 acres of corn and the remaining 63 acres was in grass-legumes.

His regular rotation on the cropland calls for two years of corn followed by four years of grass-legumes. All of the cropland has now been through two rounds of this soil-building rotation. In addition, it has been limed and 200 pounds of high analysis fertilizer has been applied to the acre each year.

In seven years, his soil conservation district plan has boosted corn yields from 30 bushels to 80 bushels per acre. Improved pastures are producing three times as much feed as the land produced in 1945. McPheeters maintains farm records in cooperation with the Kansas State Extension Service and has figures to prove that soil conservation farming is making money for him.

As to controlling soil losses, the water ran practically clear from his terrace outlets during the terrific rains of 1951, which produced the Missouri basin flood.

"I voted for the soil conservation district and I'd do it again," he said. "We didn't have this kind of technical assistance available before we organized the district. It's made money for me every year.

"I don't want to go into politics but I will say that the technical assistance we get through our district is one government service I fully approve of."

"Our soil conservation program is the finest thing that ever happened to this farm. Our net income is up 15–20%."

A NEW ANSWER to the problem of keeping the farm boy on the farm has been discovered by Walter J. Mueller of Freeburg, Ill. His solution was a soil conservation district plan which cured the gullies that had plagued both Walter Mueller and his father before him.

"I would never have been able to keep my son on the farm if I had continued to plow up and down the hill," Walter Mueller declared. "He would never have gone through what my father and I put up with, fighting those ditches.

"I was working the land just the way my grandfather laid it out and just as my father had taught me to farm. We had big fields and we plowed up hill and down. We were losing plenty of soil.

"Every spring and fall we would put in several days hauling tons of straw to fill in the ditches. Filling ditches is hard work and it's discouraging. My son, Kenneth, and I were both getting tired of farming.

"We were always having trouble with repairs on our farm machinery and there was no way of getting by without hauling straw. In addition, our crop yields were dropping."

Kenneth W. Mueller, Freeburg, Ill.

Raymond R. Irwin (left), SCS farm planner, and Walter J. Mueller, Freebrug, Ill.

The change came soon after farmers in this part of southwestern Illinois organized the Shiloh-O'Fallon Soil Conservation District in 1938.

"I had read a little about soil conservation before that," Walter Mueller said, "but I didn't know how to go about it. About the time the district was being organized they held some meetings for farmers. The first was held in the Freeberg high school and I was there. I knew I had to do something about the farm or get off of it. The district got me started."

After Shiloh-O'Fallon had been organized, the farmers asked the U. S. Soil Conservation Service to assign them a soil conservation technician, who gave Walter Mueller his first technical assistance in developing a complete soil conservation plan.

Walter Mueller and his son, Kenneth, began developing their new plan gradually. "Farmers seldom apply a complete plan right away," Walter Mueller explained. "These conservation plans are not compulsory and many farmers make changes in their plans from time to time as they see a chance for improvement."

Walter J. Mueller moved to Freeberg 10 years ago but his son liked the soil conservation idea and has carried on with the work. The father and son team operate the land on a partnership basis.

They have 143 acres of land under cultivation and a 40-acre improved woodlot. They have planted 2,600 black locusts, now mature enough to supply all of their post needs, and have surrounded the grove with 400 short leaf pine and a multiflora rose fence.

The north part of the farm is steeply rolling and the rest is fairly level bottom land. All sloping land is now being farmed on the contour. They have one and one-half miles of terracing and diversions and are still building terraces. They also have 3,500 feet of waterways and terrace outlets.

The Muellers are using a four-year crop rotation with corn followed by small grains and two years of grass-legume meadow. The entire farm has been limed and fertilized.

For 1952 they had 30 acres of wheat, 33 acres of soybeans, 38 acres of corn, 16 acres of alfalfa, 12 acres of red clover, 8 acres of grass-legume

pasture for the cattle and 6 acres of ladino pasture for the hogs.

Usually they market 15 or 18 head of beef cattle and 110 head of hogs.

"In the old days before we started modern conservation farming, we considered 40 to 50 bushels of corn to the acre as a good crop," Walter Mueller said. "Now we get 75 bushels and one year I had a field that made 81 bushels. We always have plenty of feed for our livestock and filling in the ditches is a thing of the past. All of our crop yields are up. Wheat usually makes 30 to 35 bushels now and our corn yields have increased by 25 bushels per acre.

"Farming is easier for us. We save money on machinery repairs and on tractor fuel. It takes less gasoline to pull a plow when you are plowing the land on the level."

Walter Mueller estimates the net income from this farm has been increased 15 to 20 percent by his soil conservation program.

"It's too bad we didn't start doing this 40 years ago," he said, "but of course my father and grandfather didn't have the advantage of the technical assistance which a soil conservation district furnishes farmers.

"Districts are set up to give us true self-government," he explained, "and we have always operated them that way. I was a district director for six years and we made our own decisions. We never got a penny for our travel or any other expense. We felt we were getting enough good out of the district program without it."

The father and son team is active in Farm Bureau affairs and they have also worked closely with the state Extension Service.

"Our conservation program is the finest thing that ever happened to this farm," Walter Mueller declared. "It has always been my ambition to leave this land to my only son in a better condition than it was left to me. I believe I have realized my ambition because it's a better farm today than it was when grandfather plowed the first furrow."

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"We sold over $15,000 worth of livestock last year, which is roughly seven times our gross before we adopted the district program."

By L. C. Lutes

IN 1938 we turned our investment in a county seat weekly newspaper into 240 acres of rolling northwest Missouri land near Grant City; first, because we believed it was selling too cheap, and second, we needed employment for our two boys. Finally we simply thought it would be nice to live on a farm. That was the extent of our knowledge and experience when we moved here in the spring of 1941.

The place had originally been a good one so the buildings and improvements were above average, though badly run-down. It took us a year to find out that we didn't have any soil—just a space to put some. The hillsides all had waist-deep gullies about every 60 or 80 feet. Ridge tops still had enough kick to produce a fairly lusty and tenacious cocklebur. So we were early and avid converts to soil conservation, without knowing what to ask for or where to seek it.

We wasted a good deal of time and money on half-measures or wrong measures. The county agent ran one contour line in our first corn field—we wouldn't let him do any more—so the water ran along the rows till it found an old dead furrow. Then it really went to town, to the enlargement of our many gullies. We tried doodle dams and ditch checks and made our ditches wider and more crooked. As I recall the field, about 35 acres, made roughly 300 bushels of corn.

We milked 14 Jersey cows and they were able to sandpaper enough from between the buck brush, sprouts and ironweeds, to keep body and soul together both for themselves and for us. The year before we moved, our renter had

70 acres of oats and our third was 170 bushels.

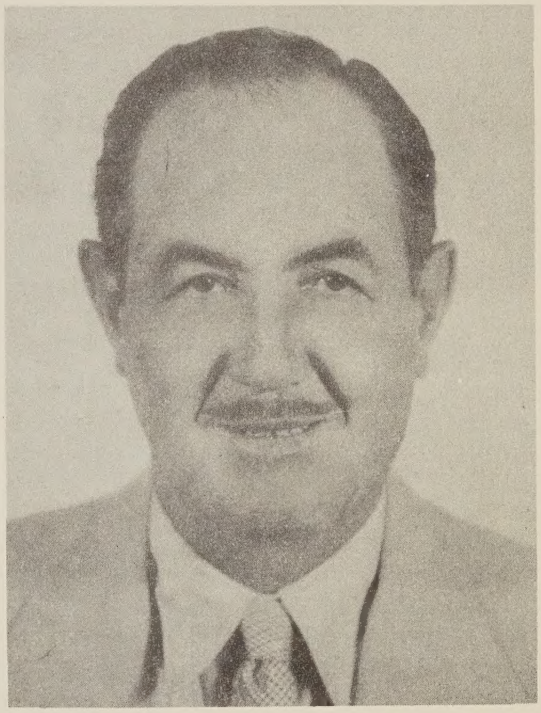
In 1944 the soil district of Worth County was formed and we drew the services of Roger Sherman from the SCS as conservationist. When he came out to see me he found, as I said before, enough dissatisfaction with our lot to get him a hearing, but enough regard for our own brains to offer quite a little resistance to his missionary work. I signed the first farm plan with the distinct understanding that I would do as much or as little of it as I pleased.

But the thing was insidious and one thing led to another. Man never rode a tractor who hates and despises to farm terraces more than I do. The only thing I hate worse is to drive around a ditch. Before long I found myself owning a whirlwind terracer and a bulldozer blade for my power scoop. The terraces called for grass waterways and later for big tube structures.

In order to get a thick enough sod in the waterways, I got introduced to fertilizer, and last fall we built a 6,400-yard dam which backs up about 3 acres of water and lowers the overflow 34 feet to the bottom of a canyon through a tube. A diving board and boat were secondary installations. The only trouble with having all the ditches leveled in a complete water control system is that it is unhandy to go so far to dump a load of cans and junk, or an old stump.

Also, Sherman kept deviling me to go to Clay County down by Kansas City with him and see their pasture improvement. I bucked that one a long time, sensibly arguing that it wasn't very bright to drive 140 miles to look at somebody's cow pasture, and anyhow pasture was my one strong point since none of the neighbors could remember when mine was plowed. So I came back home and began buying rock phosphate and lime and acquired a heavy brush and bog disc and a fertilizer spreader. The district, which owns three Brillion alfalfa-brome seeders, is getting rich off me at a dollar an acre for using them.

In 1946, the boys being away at school so much and me naturally lazy, we sold all the Jerseys but three and started building an Angus herd which has grown to include 44 cows with feed for a good many more. I also have around 50 ewes and 12 to 15 sows. In 1950 I bought another 40 acres, which adjoins, in old brush and grass. The REA power line and a rock road have been acquired, the house is entirely modern, all fencing is good, and a last rebellion against advancing age resulted in two more kids —a boy, seven, and a girl, six.



L. C. Lutes, Grant City, Mo.

The farm divides up into six units of between 30 and 50 acres each, four of which in any given year are in alfalfa-brome-ladino, one in corn and one in oats-sweetclover. The latter goes back in alfalfa, etc., the second year. That is the present plan and it is pretty well toward completion, though the extreme and continuous moisture in 1951 threw quite a wrench among the sprockets. We lost a lot of alfalfa, and the corn and oats were nothing to speak of in the presence of a minister.

With all that, we sold over $15,000 worth of stuff last year—hogs, cattle and lambs—which is roughly seven times our first gross. That is not to say we are out of the financial woods, because we still owe a lot of money. We have chosen to make these improvements before receipts justify them because we feel that savings in the shape of productive soil, good farm improvements and equipment are as good or better than money in the bank.

These benefits have come about largely through the assistance given by the Soil Conservation Service, through our district, and I am trying in a small way to repay by serving on the board of supervisors. I have been chairman for one term and was reelected this spring for another. Also, I am a member of the state board as an alternate.

To me soil conservation means a lot of things. It is the difference between slavish drudgery for a bare living and a situation that allows me to drive a good automobile, my wife to go in and play bridge with the town girls without feeling apologetic about her appearance, and the kids to learn the satisfaction of good, hard work and its result in money and time to play. But underneath all this and more important, is the satisfaction of living with the good earth and the good plants and animals on it. We must remember that "the Earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof" and see that His later children have an opportunity to use and enjoy it.

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"There were no private contractors working here that I know of, but since we organized a district we now have five."

SCHOOL days are not over for farmers of the Appanoose County Soil Conservation District in southern Iowa. For each winter the district sponsors a farmers' school which is one of the things about a district program that appeals to Lee R. Benz. A district cooperator himself, Benz has a 230-acre farm about four miles southwest of Moravia.

"I think the district's school is one of the strong points in the program," Benz said. "Every winter, a four-week course in soil conservation and modern farming methods is given and it's been a fine thing for the entire area.

"We usually have 65 or 70 farmers enrolled for this short course. John McCaughey, our county agent, directs the school for the district. Sylvan Runkel and William Stark of the Soil Conservation Service take part in the program and we also have specialists from the Iowa State Extension Service and from the SCS in Ames and Milwaukee.

"Local slides are used for the course and farmers who live right here sit on the panel and answer questions. Our merchants support the district 100 percent and business firms even serve refreshments during the farmers' school."

This, however, is only one phase of the district program that appeals to Lee Benz. He finds such events as plowing matches, field days and other demonstrations are also helpful. A forage

Lee R. Benz, Moravia, Ia.

day is sponsored and each year the district participates in an alfalfa banquet at which five outstanding conservation farmers are honored. Benz was one of the winners in 1950.

"Our district helps farmers get fish for stocking ponds and also secures nursery stock for us," he said. "This past spring, for example, the district distributed 62,000 multiflora rose to farmers for fences and wildlife plantings.

"The district has two bulldozers, whirlwind terracer and a scoop which can be rented by farmers. This is not much equipment but enough to provide a good demonstration and arouse interest among the farmers. The district has stimulated a greater demand and as a result we now have five private contractors working here. Several more who live in adjoining districts are also doing work around here. Before we organized the district there were no private contractors operating here that I know of."

Farmers of Appanoose County organized their soil conservation district in 1944 and Lee Benz became a cooperator about two years later while operating another farm.

He bought his present farm in 1947 and immediately began developing a complete farm conservation plan on it. One was needed, for under tenant operators the land had started gullying badly. Benz began operating every sloping acre on the contour and building terraces.

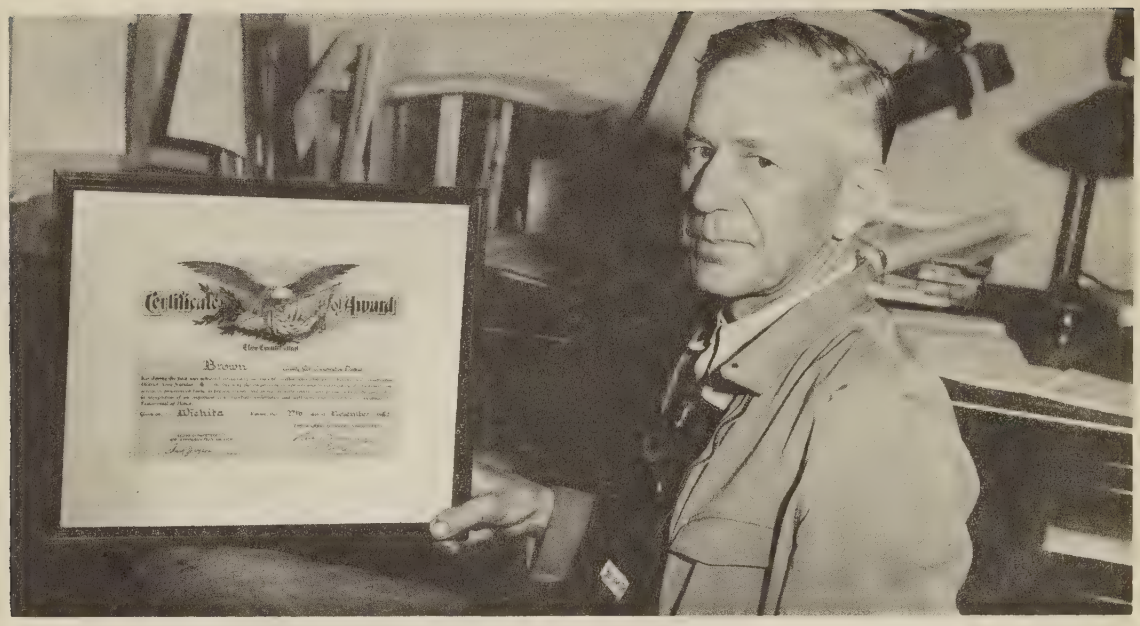
"That first year we had a real hard rain," he recalls. "I didn't lose any soil but one of my neighbors had soil washed clear across the highway."

Benz in five years built 2,600 feet of terraces; 600 feet of diversions; 4,500 feet of grass waterways. He has improved 30 acres of pasture, has 47 acres of contoured strip cropping and is farming 125 acres on the contour.

Gullies are no longer a problem and yields of corn and small grains are up an average of 10 bushels to the acre. The principal income comes from hogs and a herd of 50 Guernseys which had an official DHI herd average of 365 pounds of butterfat.

Benz is legislative chairman of the County Farm Bureau and an active cooperator with the Agricultural Extension Service. He is also a director in both the County Farm Bureau and the National Farm Loan Association.

"I'd never have made as much progress without our soil conservation district," he said. "We have elected an excellent board of commissioners. They just couldn't be better. Through their help and the technical assistance of the Soil Conservation Service, I've developed a complete plan on this farm which is not only controlling the gullies but has built back my soil fertility for present and future crops."



Chester W. Bebermeyer, Hiawatha, Kans.

"The best part about a district is that no state or federal agency can tell us what to do."

ONLY the other day a neighbor asked Chester W. Bebermeyer of Hiawatha, Kans.: "Why do you farm this way?" He had been looking at Bebermeyer's terraces and other soil conserving practices.

"I'll tell you one reason why I'm following a soil conservation plan," Bebermeyer said, "I have to make every acre count in order to meet these high taxes and high living expenses."

Bebermeyer owns a 240 acre farm, 12 miles northeast of Hiawatha. He retired from the farm in 1948 and his son, Chester, is now operating it.

"I took over the place about 1926 when dad retired," he explained, "and after dad died I bought out the other heirs. I farmed there for 28 years.

"In the old days farmers didn't give much thought to protecting their topsoil. They were only interested in keeping their crops from washing out. Some of my land was in pretty bad shape.

"I had been hearing about terracing and about 1937 I began building my first terraces with a horse-drawn grader. I had been trying to contour before that but the water was breaking over the contours.

"I was strongly in favor of a soil conservation district when we organized ours in 1940. I still am. The economy of the entire nation depends on soil conservation. I could preach it all day long.

"Farmers didn't have the technical assistance they needed with their erosion problems before the district was organized and very little was being done. We have had a tremendous increase in soil conservation since we organized the district. As an example, last year alone our

farmers built 200 miles of terraces and 50 drop inlet erosion control dams.

"In 1944 I became an assistant supervisor of the district and was elected supervisor in 1948. I think we do a good job of managing our own district. Nathan Babcock is our chairman and he is a good one.

"The best part about it is that no state or federal agency can tell us what to do or how to vote on any question. We are strictly on our own.

"Our county extension agent, Harvey Goertz, helps with the district's educational program and many of our cooperators get financial support through the PMA program.

"The U. S. Soil Conservation Service furnishes us the help of Hurshal E. Boyd, and Justin McNish who are trained soil conservationists. The district also gets assistance from the implement dealers, and other sources."

In 1950 the Brown county soil conservation district won the Kansas Bankers' Association award for its outstanding program and the same year took second place in the Goodyear contest.

The district sponsors an annual air tour for farmers who can get a birds-eye view of what erosion is doing to their land. In 1951, a total of 248 farmers took the trip. In addition, the district carried on many other activities including the stockpiling of standard tubing for drop inlets.

But what has the district program done for Chester W. Bebermeyer as an individual farmer?

"It's made money for me," he said. "Just to give you an example, before I started my soil conservation plan, some of the slopes on my farm were practically worthless as far as crops were concerned. Now they're making 70 bushels of corn."

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"Soil conservation is no longer a side issue. Application has tripled since we organized our district."

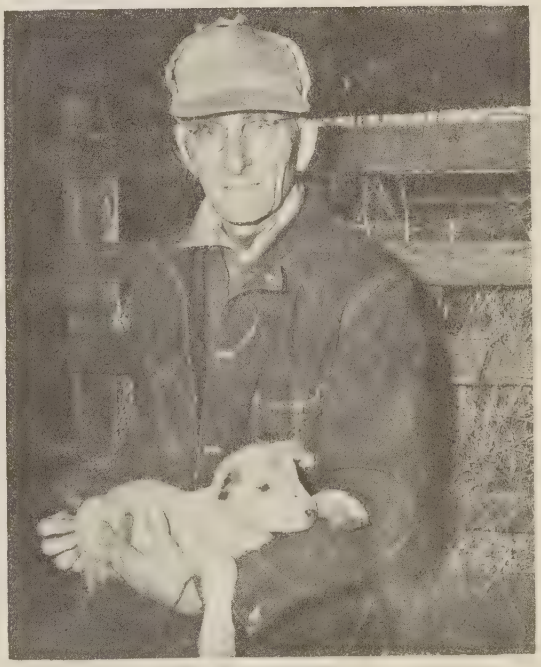
By Donald C. Pharis

I WAS TEACHING vocational agriculture when I bought my farm near Liberty, Mo., in 1927. The land was hilly and while it had good subsoil the farm had been bled dry by 15 or 20 years of cash renting. There were some bad gullies and a lot of the topsoil was already gone.

I kept a renter for a few years and in 1929 began building terraces. Then in 1934 I quit teaching and moved on the farm myself. At first I grew corn, small grains and clover in a three-year rotation, but I abandoned this rotation in 1935 and began growing more grass and legumes.

When I bought the place corn was making only about 20 bushels to the acre. In 1943 it averaged 60 bushels and two years later I took three tests from a field which made 92, 110 and 120 bushels.

By 1946 I had seven and a half miles of terraces built, and was cultivating everything on the contour and had used all the lime and fertilizer the land needed.



Donald C. Pharis, Liberty, Mo.

My farming operations have about stabilized down to a grass system entirely, with around 35 acres of the 160 being renovated each year. I use mostly orchardgrass, with ladino, but have one 39-acre field of newly seeded fescue and ladino. I have around 10 acres alfalfa-brome for hay. I still consider bluegrass a "weed," but maybe it will prevent bloat when there is some of it in these more productive mixtures.

Livestock to harvest the grass consist of 125 purebred Columbia ewes, and around 40 or 50 range calves bought each fall, roughed through winter on pasture and hay alone, and sold off grass the next fall.

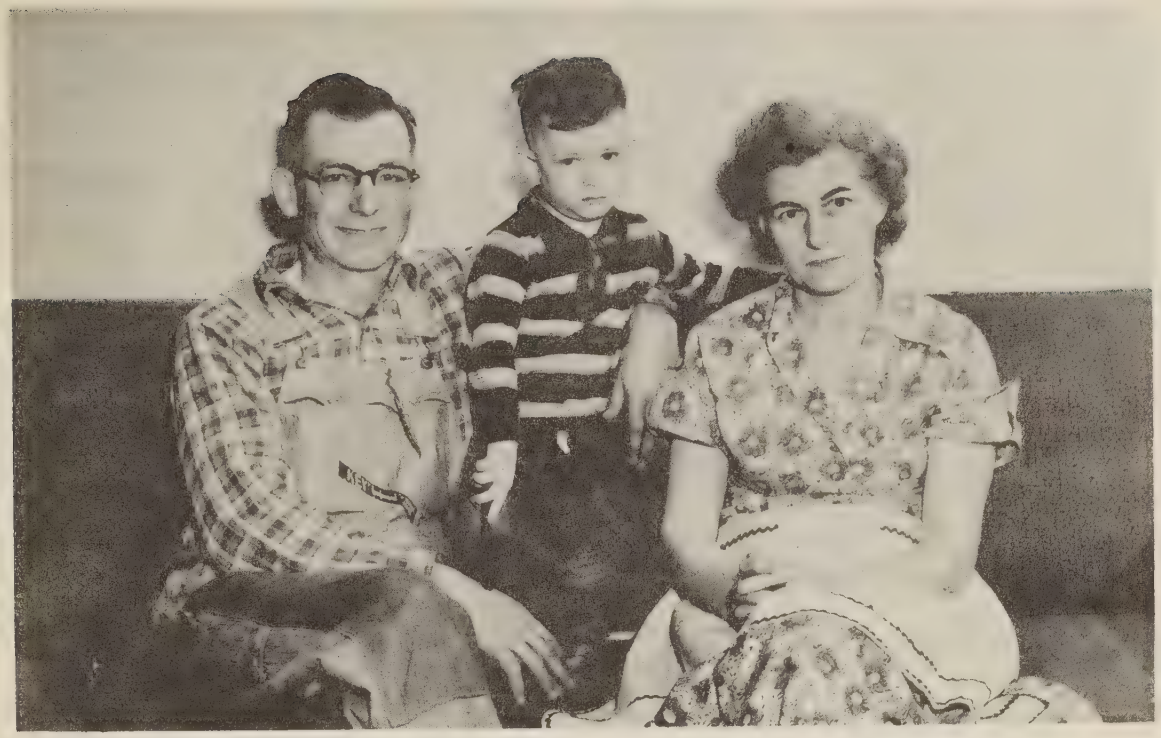
I can't say much about yields except that the carrying capacity under my improved system, following my conservation farm plan, is fully double and labor requirements are way down; not over half that used formerly. And a big dividend is the satisfaction of living on a beautiful farm which I know is improving each year, which has no bare spots, and which contributes no flood water or silt to those in the plains below.

The Soil District of Clay County has been a great aid to me personally in making available really trained technicians to aid in replanning my farm program and in keeping it up-to-date. The SCS engineers designed one rather large gully (and flood control) system, and have given aid in erasing several of the other gullies with the result that these are now beautiful, grassed waterways—useful areas, not danger spots.

But in addition to this help to the cooperators from the trained specialists, the soil district organization has made it possible for the county to receive a vast amount of work towards conserving our natural resources from the supervisors themselves. They work without pay or even the reward of public appreciation.

Supervisors of this soil district have initiated a really outstanding program of teaching conservation to the children of the county. They have received much help from many sources but provided the leadership themselves; they raised the money for prizes and expenses; they saw that full publicity was given.

Before we had the soil district, conservation was the side-issue of a lot of agencies. The most important thing to the people and the Nation was left largely to chance. Now we have an organization that is legally chartered and charged to work towards full conservation of all resources. The people vote to so organize; they vote periodically on who shall supervise the work, and no taxes are raised. Conservation application has tripled or quadrupled since we were organized as a direct result.



Mr. and Mrs. Leonard G. Miller, Creston, Ia., and son, Ronald.

"The district program has made money for me and it could do the same for other farmers."

ALTHOUGH he is just finishing his first complete rotation of crops under the plan he developed four years ago with the local soil conservation district, Leonard G. Miller of Creston, Ia., has already boosted his corn yields from 45 bushels an acre to 70 bushels. And the land which produced enough feed for only 18 head of steers in 1948 is now turning out 40 head, due largely to Miller's outstanding pasture improvement program.

He bought his home place, a quarter section of land three miles east of Creston, in 1944 and also owns two nearby eighties. As further proof that soil conservation pays, both were bought in a three-year period. Most of the eighties was poor pasture when Miller bought the land. Of the 160 acres where he lives, 150 acres was under cultivation. Hard cropping and soil erosion had already left their marks on this land.

In 1943 farmers of Union County had organized their soil conservation district and five years later Miller began developing a basic soil conservation plan for his land with district assistance. Today his plan is as near 100 percent applied on the land as is humanly possible.

Soil losses on sloping land have been controlled by two miles of terraces and three miles of grass waterways. All of the 150 acres of cropland is being farmed on the contour. Miller has moved all of his field division fences on to the contour and is practicing a soil building rotation which has already boosted his yields. He uses a six-year rotation with corn followed by oats and four years of grass-legumes.

Seventy acres of poor pasture has been limed, fertilized and seeded to a grass-legume mixture and all cropland is limed and fertilized regularly.

"My pasture improvement program has dou-

bled my carrying capacity," Miller said. "Where I used to sell about 18 head of steers, I'm able now to pasture 40 head and finish them on my own corn.

"I don't see how I could have gotten along without the technical assistance the district furnished me. Before our district was organized farmers didn't have that kind of help. In fact, very little had been done before the district was started in the way of terracing, contouring and other soil conserving practices.

"The district program has made money for me and it could do the same for other farmers if they would cooperate."

As evidence that he believes in the local district, Miller agreed to run for district commissioner in 1951 and was elected to a six-year term.

With help not only from the U. S. Soil Conservation Service but also the Iowa State Extension Service, the Union Soil Conservation District has developed the type of program which wins support from many sources. Civic clubs have participated each year in farm tours. Both the Iowa State Savings Bank and the Creston Chamber of Commerce have backed up the district program as co-sponsors of various events and the Savings Bank has also sponsored a terrace contest. The bank also bought permanent signs which the district uses in marking the farms of good cooperators.

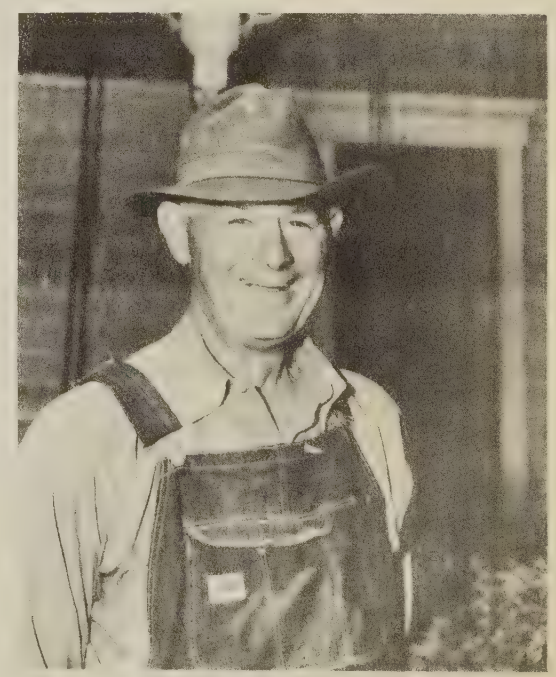
Of more lasting importance to Leonard Miller, the farmer, is the fact that this land today is producing twice as much good Iowa beefsteak to feed the eastern cities, thanks to a farm conservation plan which has made the soil permanently productive.

"We're making a living here and our soil conservation plan is helping us do it. The plan is ours and it's not compulsory."

THE people of Perry County, Illinois, really wanted a soil conservation district when they passed petitions calling for a district referendum, several years ago. For, 17 different groups of farmers had already signed up for technical assistance before an SCS farm planner had even been assigned to the new district.

One of the men most active in the district movement was Allen G. Rountree who lives on a farm eight miles northeast of Duquoin. For that reason his neighbors elected him as first chairman of the district governing body, a position he still holds.

"We knew we had to do something about our erosion problems and we thought a soil conservation district was the best way to do it," Rountree explained. "J. D. McCall, who was our county farm adviser at that time gave us a lot of help. We held a series of educational meetings in school houses around the county, explaining to the farmers what a district could do for them. We signed up 17 groups of farmers at these meetings before the Soil Conservation Service



Allen G. Rountree

had even assigned Ed Webb to us as farm planner.

"These farmers were ready to start working out basic farm conservation plans as soon as Webb arrived. We tell all of our cooperating farmers that they are responsible for writing their own farm plans. Webb will give them the technical assistance they need but it's their plan and it's not compulsory.

"I don't think we could get along any more without a soil conservation district."

Allen Rountree himself was one of the first farmers to start developing a farm conservation plan. His wife was born in a log cabin on this 140-acre farm and Rountree has been operating the place for the last 20 years. About half of the land is rolling and the rest is bottom land much of which is hard to handle because of flooding. Of the total, 100 acres consists of pasture and cropland and the remaining 40 acres are principally woodland.

Under his farm plan, Rountree began converting to grassland farming which fits in well with his dairying. He uses only 30 acres for row crops and the remaining land is improved permanent pasture.

Last fall he seeded 25 acres to a mixture of orchardgrass, fescue, Ladino, and red clover and built a new farm pond in the center of the pasture. This is piped to a stock tank and enclosed in multiflora rose fence.

He has been raising registered Jerseys for the last 30 years and usually milks about 12 cows. His principal income, however, comes from poultry although his Jerseys have had a herd average of 456 pounds of butterfat.

In 1951 Mr. and Mrs. Rountree marketed $2,500 worth of eggs from their 400 white leghorns.

There is a plentiful supply of feed from the improved pastures, which include a five-acre plot of Alta fescue and Ladino clover, and meadow land usually produces two and a half tons of hay to the acre. Some of this feed is being converted into wool and mutton by a flock of 52 sheep.

"We're making a living here," Allen Rountree commented, "and our soil conservation plan is helping us do it."

Giving his time without salary to the soil conservation district came naturally to Allen Rountree who has been active in the county farm bureau for the last 25 years. Through his work and that of other district directors, the Perry Soil Conservation District has developed an aggressive program. Help from all sources is welcomed.

Bankers of the area give a dinner for the annual meeting of the district each year and these events draw an attendance exceeding 100 cooperators. Banks, implement dealers, the extension service and others also help the district sponsor tours and other educational events.

Each year the Perry District sponsors a short course in soil conservation for teachers and because of this work the subject is gaining added emphasis in the Perry County school system. Perry holds membership in the Illinois State Association of Soil Conservation Districts and is a member of the Southwestern Illinois District council which in turn is represented by a director in the State association.

Farmers of Perry County, Illinois, demonstrated several years ago they wanted a soil conservation district and today they are making the most of its facilities.

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"My soil conservation plan has doubled wheat yields and boosted my corn average a good 50%."

A SHORT time after a driving rain had gouged a three-inch layer of topsoil from his sloping field in only 90 minutes, C. B. Coughenour of Wellsville, Kansas, became a cooperator of the Franklin County Soil Conservation District. Since then, he has not only anchored his topsoil but has doubled his wheat yields and boosted per acre production of corn by a good 50 percent.

Coughenour bought his farm, a mile and a half south of Wellsville, in 1942. A good deal of the topsoil was already gone and crop yields were low for that area. Wheat usually made about 15 bushels to the acre and corn would average about 30 bushels.

A field east of the house had been particularly hard hit by erosion. The cloudburst which brought things to a climax, fell about a year after he had bought the place. In an hour and a half six inches of rain poured down and topsoil ran off the field in sheets.

So, in 1944 Coughenour developed a complete farm conservation plan with technical assistance supplied through the soil conservation district.

"My first job was to stop the wash on the slopes," he explained. "In this area a program of water control is absolutely essential to stabilizing soils and maintaining fertility."

His plan called for two miles of terracing, a mile of which was laid out on the field east of the house. Coughenour has built all of the terraces with his own plow and farm tractor. "I feel if a farmer is able to do it and is interested enough to build his own terrace system, he will maintain it," he said.

He has built 16,000 lineal feet of grass waterways, three farm ponds and is farming every acre on the contour. All of his land has been limed and fertilized.

"I try to follow a good rotation," he said. "I use a wheat nurse crop with legumes, followed by corn, oats and back to wheat again. I use a four year rotation with red clover and a three year one with sweet clover."

For 1952, Coughenour sowed 35 acres of wheat. Twenty acres of it was seeded to red clover and the rest was to be followed by alfalfa in the fall. He had 30 acres of corn, 20 acres of soybeans, 12 of oats, 20 acres in grass-legume meadow and the balance in permanent pasture, all of which has been limed, fertilized and seeded to a good grass-legume mixture.

C. B. Coughenour, Wellsville, Kans.

Since 1944 his wheat yields have jumped from 15 bushels to as high as 35. A 28 bushel wheat average is now common on his farm. And corn which used to average 30 bushels in a good year, now makes as high as 50.

His principal income, however, comes from turkeys and dairying. This year he will market 1,000 turkeys. He usually milks about 12 cows.

"The technical assistance farmers need with their soil problems was never available until we organized our soil conservation district," Coughenour said.

"Our district has had full hearted support from every source, not only the SCS and extension service but also from private industry, the churches and even the schools. We sponsor annual soil conservation contests in our schools and our ministers not only give special sermons on 'Soils and Souls' Sunday but also attend our annual meeting.

"Our bankers' association has backed the district program and the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce has been very helpful. Each year these two organizations give a dinner for our annual meeting. The machinery dealers give splendid cooperation and the county bankers give annual awards to outstanding conservation farmers."

In addition to being president of the Franklin County Farm Bureau, C. B. Coughenour is a supervisor of the soil conservation district, an active supporter of the State extension service program and a member of the Board of Stewards and Lay Leaders in his church.

"Before we organized our district very few farmers of this county were doing anything about soil conservation," he said. "Now our district has 800 active cooperators and the number is growing larger every year. This is a program in which local support is necessary and as a district supervisor I can say we are certainly getting it."

And as a farmer with a soil conservation district plan applied on his land, C. B. Coughenour has his erosion problem well in hand. The same sloping field which lost six inches of soil during one gulley-washer while he was still plowing up and down the hill, stood up under the disastrous rains of 1951 in fine shape. C. B. Coughenour's farm is no longer moving gradually into the flood-swollen Kansas River. His soil stays at home.

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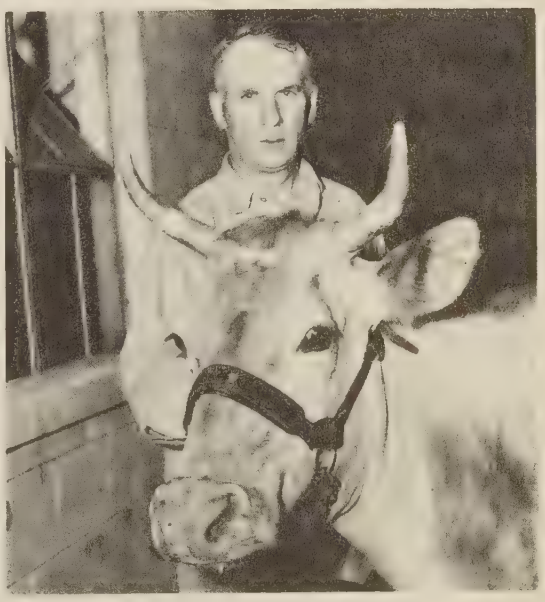
"I like a soil district program because it helps you develop a long-range blueprint of your farming which really shows you your needs."

R. D. Pennewell had been farming in the Mississippi River bottoms of northeastern Missouri before he bought his 536-acre farm, three miles north of Palmyra, Missouri, back in 1926. The new farm was rolling land and already some of the steeper slopes showed the effects of erosion.

"I knew I had a problem," he recalls, "but at that time not much was being done about conserving the soil." It was not until the depression years of the '30's that he received any technical help with his soil problems. During that period the CCC was developed.

"The first soil conservation work in Marion County was done by the CCC boys," Pennewell recalls, "here on my farm. Some of the terraces they laid out and built for me are still functioning and still doing a good job. The CCC demonstration got me interested in soil conservation."

A few years later the Missouri state legislature passed an enabling act which gave farmers



R. D. Pennewell, Palmyra, Mo.

the right to hold referendums and organize soil conservation districts.

"We began talking about organizing a district here," Pennewell recalls, "and I became chairman of a farmers' committee. There was opposition by people who didn't understand what a district could do for us. Because of this the first referendum failed to carry. We waited a while and then began passing petitions again. As a result the second referendum carried and the Marion Soil District was organized in February of 1948."

Farmers of neighboring Ralls County then followed the Marion example.

Ray Pennewell was one of the first farmers to apply for technical assistance after the U. S. Soil Conservation Service had assigned a farm planner to the new district.

By the time the district was organized he had already made noticeable gains in controlling erosion under the impetus of the CCC demonstration. He had built 2,100 lineal feet of terrace outlets and grass waterways, three and a half miles of terraces and had improved 14 acres of pasture.

Since he began developing a complete soil conservation plan with district assistance, he has built an additional 5,050 lineal feet of terrace outlets and waterways, nearly three more miles of terraces and has improved 71 more acres of pasture.

"I like a soil district program," Pennewell explained, "because it helps you develop a long-range blueprint of your farming operations which really shows you your needs. The plan is not compulsory in any way and it's flexible. You can do what needs to be done and do it when you're able to. I will be several more years fully developing my plan, but through our district I can get technical assistance whenever I need it."

Out of his total 536 acres, Pennewell operates 350 acres in rotation. The rest is in woodland and permanent pasture. To assure an ample supply of feed for his registered Guernsey herd, he has 75 of his crop acres in brome-alfalfa. While his cropping plan varies somewhat with the slope and condition of the soil, it is primarily an eight-year rotation.

He already has waterways established for terracing 52 additional acres and has replaced some of his old fencerow outlets with grass waterways built down the natural drainageways. He has the only concrete block-type erosion control structure in the entire district.

All of the land has been limed and fertilized and part of it has had an application of rock phosphate.

The Flo-Ray farm is a perfect example of what can be accomplished with a grassland-type of agriculture and a good livestock program. Crop yields have been boosted materially and there is never a feed shortage. "Aside from the supplement, we grow all the feed we need here for 150 head of cattle," Pennewell said.

The program has paid off and through the years Mr. and Mrs. Pennewell have built the Flo-Ray farm into a show place.

Some time ago Pennewell built a modern 48-stanchion dairy barn. Here he and his hired men milk from 55 to 60 head of registered Guernseys, producing Grade A milk which draws a premium on the St. Louis market. He has been a member of the Dairy Herd Improvement Association for 20 years and his herd is being tested under the Herd Improvement Registry plan.

Pennewell is president of the Missouri Guernsey Breeders Association; president of the Sanitary Milk Producers Association, which covers the St. Louis milk shed in Missouri and Illinois; is president of the Hannibal Production Credit Association, and a past president of the County Farm Bureau.

R. D. Pennewell has been especially active in the field of rural electrification. He is now president of the Northeast Missouri Electric Power Cooperative, which is building the first REA steam plant in Missouri on the banks of the Mississippi in Marion County.

As to soil conservation, he said: "Putting fertility into your soil is just like putting money in the bank. It's there to draw on when you need it. I've proved to my own satisfaction that by using the soil district way of farming you can have uplands just as productive as the bottoms and a lot more sure of a crop."

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Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jacquot, DeSoto, Ill.

"We have practically doubled our yields but without the kind of assistance the district makes available we'd be lost."

PUTTING nearly half of all his cultivated land into grass was no small matter to Frank Jacquot, who lives three miles west of DeSoto, Ill. But that was the recommendation made to him in 1945 by Charles T. Hufford, farm planner for the U. S. Soil Conservation Service.

Jacquot had 190 acres of his farm under cultivation when he applied for technical assistance from the Jackson County Soil Conservation district. "That 90 acres shouldn't be used for corn and beans," Hufford told him. "It's too steep and a lot of the topsoil is already gone. Put it into grass-legumes, build up your dairy herd and see what happens."

Jacquot followed the technician's advice and as a result he doubled his income from the 90 acres. In addition, crop yields have gone up nearly 100 percent on the remaining 100 acres because of the soil conservation measures Jacquot adopted.

"I figured out my net income on one of the pastures," Jacquot said. "It is making me $125 an acre in milk production. The best gross income I ever had from corn on that same land was $60 an acre."

Because of these added dairy dollars, Frank Jacquot now owns the farm he moved on as a renter back in 1932.

"The farm was in bad condition when we moved here," he said. "Some of the land was overgrown with wild dewberries. I remember our first wheat crop averaged six bushels to the acre. We had square fields and I farmed them up and down hill the way I had been taught to farm.

"I was raising corn, wheat and oats. I thought

I had a fair crop then if the corn averaged from 30 to 40 bushels. I was growing corn on the land every second or third year and was also growing soybeans. Most of us were farming the old way at that time because we didn't know any better.

"Then they began talking about organizing a soil conservation district and getting some technical assistance for the farmers. J. G. McCall, our farm advisor, was one of the leaders in this."

Farmers of Jackson County voted in their district in 1944 and Jacquot was the tenth farmer in the new district to develop a complete farm conservation plan.

The 90 acres which he had used for corn, wheat and soybeans were limed, fertilized and seeded to a good mixture of grass-legumes. Field boundaries were changed and the fences were moved on the contour. They laid out the 100 crop acres in five smaller fields and Jacquot began working into a better crop rotation.

In 1946 several years after his father's death, Frank Jacquot bought the farm. As the years have passed he has gradually worked into his new system of farming until today the plan is fully applied except for 20 acres of pasture, which he planned to renovate before the end of 1952.

Five grass waterways have been developed and two fine farm ponds built. Jacquot and his son, Ray, are farming all of the sloping land on the contour and all of the farm has been limed and fertilized on the basis of soil tests. They have 25 acres of permanent pasture and the rest of the 90 acres is in rotation pasture, all of it seeded to grass-legumes.

"Our corn which used to make around 30 to 40 bushels usually yields 70 to 80 bushels now," Jacquot said. "Several years ago we had 50 acres that made 4,000 bushels, an average of 80. We have practically doubled our corn yields and other crop returns have increased accordingly. Best of all, the land is getting better all the time and my erosion problems are under control."

The father and son have built up a herd of 60 Guernseys and sell Grade A milk. Their rotation also yields an abundant feed supply for 19 head of Herefords. All pasture and meadow land is in alfalfa-brome and last year they took an average of four tons of high quality hay per acre from three cuttings.

"We have more than doubled our feed capacity by adopting this soil conservation plan," Frank Jacquot said. "Last year, for example, we put up 8,600 bales of hay from this farm."

Since 1946 they have enlarged and modernized the barn. In addition to this they have modernized the house during the same period, adding running water, lights, central heating and the other modern conveniences.

Frank Jacquot is a farm bureau member and served as a 4-H Club leader for 14 years. His oldest son, Ray, was a 4-H member and is now a club leader while Frank, Jr., has projects in both 4-H and FFA.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Jacquot, DeSoto, Ill., and children, Earl Ray and Karen Marie.

Two years ago, Frank, Sr., was elected a director of the Jackson County Soil Conservation District and still holds that position. Prior to that time their conservation program had already won the Jacquots the G. M. & O. National award as farm family of the year.

"We didn't have the technical assistance we needed before we organized our soil conservation district," Frank Jacquot explained. "We farmed the old way because we didn't know any other manner of doing it. Without the kind of assistance the district makes available we'd be lost."

Glen Stroburg and son, John, Blockton, Ia.

"Since the district helped me develop a plan on my farm I've increased my beef production 100%."

SOME FARMERS object to contouring because the point rows force them to turn their equipment around in the field more frequently. But not Glen Stroburg, who owns and operates 400 acres of southwest Iowa land four miles west of Blockton.

Stroburg has 18 miles of terraces on his rolling land and every cultivated acre is on the contour. "I don't turn around any more now than I did before I began contouring," Stroburg said. "The only difference is that when I turned around before, it was because of gullies, not point rows."

When he moved into the Blockton neighborhood in 1921, Stroburg had only 160 acres but good management has made it possible for him to acquire additional land. Of the 400 acres he now owns, 140 are in permanent pasture and the rest under cultivation. His principal income is from beef cattle and hogs.

By 1941 when farmers of Taylor County organized their soil conservation district, Stro-

burg and his son, John, were marketing about 12 head of feeder cattle annually and about 100 hogs. They also had 12 milk cows. Much of the sloping land was cut by erosion and gullies were a constant problem.

Stroburg was the fifth man to sign up with the new district and develop a complete soil conservation plan with technical assistance supplied by the U. S. Soil Conservation Service.

Using the improved soil management system outlined in this plan, he has built 18 miles of terraces in the last 10 years, 4,000 feet of grass waterways, and has developed an improved crop rotation.

His more productive land is in a three-year rotation while steeper slopes with less topsoil are being farmed now under a five-year rotation. This includes corn, oats and three years of grass-legume meadow. Stroburg and his son seeded 65 acres to grass-legumes the past spring, bringing their total acreage in this meadow crop up to 100.

All of the 140 acres in permanent pasture has been limed and phosphated and as a result the pasture carrying capacity has been more than doubled.

Since he developed his soil conservation plan, Stroburg has increased his beef production by 100 percent. Normally he finishes out and markets from 25 to 30 head of steers as contrasted to 12 head he was marketing 10 years ago. In addition, he markets about 120 head of hogs which represents a 10-year increase of 20 percent. The reason—a plentiful supply of feed made possible by improved rotations and better soil management. In a normal year his corn will now average 50 bushels to the acre, which is twice as much as this farm would produce 20 years ago.

Gullies are a thing of the past, although it took some concrete structures and a drop-inlet dam to bring under control a big one, up to 15 feet in depth, which had been eating its way across one field.

A good pond which Stroburg built under his district plan has been fenced and developed as a source of livestock water and fire protection.

"Our pasture improvement program has sure paid off," Stroburg said, "and I don't mind the point rows when I remember the gullies we used to have. I expect if we hadn't changed our way of farming a lot of this land would have been washed away by now. The district is a good thing. I'd vote for it again."

Robert H. Lott, Albia, Ia.

"I credit the Monroe Soil Conservation district with getting me on the right road."

"I LIKE the idea of a district because it makes soil conservation a community affair." This was the statement of Robert H. Lott, who owns and farms 161 acres of land 11 miles northwest of Albia, Ia.

"One neighbor," he explained, "is always interested in what the other is doing. For example, after I developed a plan for my farm one of my neighbors and I used to discuss the way we handled small seeds. He had been discing too deep and was not using enough phosphate and manure. Now he is following my system and is getting good stands.

"When one or two farmers in a district get started with a soil conservation program, they help sell it to their neighbors. You can give a man the information but most farmers want to see it for themselves."

Lott bought the farm in 1944 two years before farmers of Monroe County organized their soil conservation district. That first year he bought 20 acres of standing corn from the previous owner. It made 25 bushels to the acre.

In October of 1946 he applied for district assistance in developing a complete farm conservation plan and since then has:

Built up soil fertility by adopting a rotation of corn, oats, sweetclover, corn, oats and two years of meadow;

Limed and fertilized the land;

Built a mile of terraces, 1,300 feet of grass waterway, and two farm ponds;

Improved 13 acres of permanent pasture and seeded 40 additional acres to grass-legumes, and

Adopted contouring on all of the 80 acres which he has under cultivation.

By 1948 corn yields had jumped from 25

bushels to a 73 bushel average on three fields. It was a poor corn year in 1951 but Lott still averaged 65 bushels.

His principal income comes from beef cattle and hogs and since he developed his farm plan there is never a feed shortage on the Lott farm. Usually he markets from 15 to 18 steers and about 100 head of hogs. In 1951 he sold $3,600 worth of hogs, produced and fed from 161 acres. Clean pastures are an important part of his hog program.

"Soil Conservation is a long-time process and there are still things I need to do," he explained. "When the district got me started on this, I just sat down with the SCS technician and worked out my plan. Farming is a business and any business should start with a plan."

A former PMA committeeman, Lott is president of the county farm bureau and has cooperated in the Agricultural Extension Service program. In 1947 he was one of three outstanding soil conservation farmers in Monroe County to be honored with a district award.

"Before we had a soil conservation district," he said, "this technical assistance wasn't available from any source. It's the only soil conservation program that is based on an individual plan to fit the individual farm. If I had it to do over again I'd be one of the first farmers in the district to apply for technical assistance."

Like other Iowa districts, the Monroe SCD receives financial assistance each year from state funds appropriated by a conservation-conscious legislature.

The district owns a terracer, a hydraulic scoop and a small grain drill, which can be used on an hourly rate basis by any cooperator. However, much of the earth moving is being done by private contractors, one of whom built two ponds for Robert Lott.

Strongly supported locally, the district sponsors conservation work books in the schools and has the backing of Monroe County business interests and civic clubs.

"I credit the Monroe district with getting me on the right road," Robert Lott said. "I was like a lot of farmers before that. I wanted to do the best I could for my land but I didn't have the knowledge and technical assistance necessary to get the job done."

Vernon Pfister, Hiawatha, Kans.

"Our soil conservation district has not only helped farmers—it has made business for all of the private contractors."

ALTHOUGH a soil conservation plan has tripled his own corn yields and cut erosion by 90 percent, Vernon Pfister of Hiawatha, Kans., points out that farmers are not the only ones who benefit. "Private contractors are getting a lot of business from the district, too," he said.

"Before we organized the Brown County Soil Conservation District, farmers had to depend on county and township road graders for any earth moving they needed to do. There wasn't a private contractor operating in Brown County that I know of. Since the district program began developing, more and more men, some of them returned veterans, have bought bulldozers and other earth moving equipment. We have 18 or 20 of them now who either live in this district or live nearby and work here. Farmers hire them to build terraces, diversions and ponds which are recommended in their soil conservation plan.

"Verland Byer of Hamlin is one of our private contractors. He says the technical assistance made available to farmers through our district has created interest, standardized practices and has made business for all of the private contractors."

Pfister, who is a district supervisor, owns and operates a quarter section 10 miles southwest of Hiawatha. He moved on the farm in 1936 and like all of his neighbors continued plowing up and down the hill until the district was organized.

"The place was run down when I got it," he recalls, "and I was losing a lot of soil. I began

building it up and when the district was organized I applied for assistance."

Pfister became a district cooperator in 1941 and with the technical assistance of SCS technicians, he developed a complete farm conservation plan.

"This plan was entirely voluntary," he said, "and no one ever told me I had to do anything. I gradually changed over to the soil conservation type of farming and it took me about five years to get the plan fully developed."

Today Pfister has 6.7 miles of terracing on his own land and on an additional 80 he rents. All cropland is on the contour, he has 10 acres of grass waterways, 500 feet of diversions and has improved 62 acres of pasture. He operates under a soil building rotation and uses lime and fertilizer as needed.

Grass seed from his improved pasture provides part of his farm income. In addition he usually markets 20 head of steers and 40 or 50 hogs a year.

"My cattle and hogs make more money for me because they are of better quality and bring better prices," he explained. "Improved land produces improved feed."

"Before I developed my soil conservation plan, my corn usually made from 25 to 30 bushels an acre. Now it will average 75 bushels and in 1950 some of my corn made 90. Not all of this increase is from terracing or hybrid seeds. Much of it comes from the fact that I have built up my soil fertility."

As to the effect his district plan has had on controlling soil losses, Pfister said: "It really showed up during the floods of 1951. Some of my neighbors who are still using the old system of farming had their land ditched badly during the rains. I didn't have any ditching. I believe it's cut my erosion 90 percent.

"As further protection I intend to put one or two drop inlet dams on the main waterways this year."

"The thing I like about a district is that it is under local management. It has helped me do a better job of farming."

BY APPLYING to his farming operations the sound business principles he learned as a banker, Abie Rushing has built up an agricultural enterprise down in the tip of the Missouri "boot-heel" country which furnishes employment to 15 families.

The families live in houses on Rushing's 551-acre farm, a short distance east of Cooter, Mo., and work for Rushing during the farming season at the prevailing wage.

Cooter is a village a few miles below Caruthersville, and within a stone's-throw of Tennessee and Arkansas. It is in the heart of the rich black delta lands where the principal problem is drainage and soil deterioration from heavy cropping.

Abie Rushing was born on a farm near Cooter. He began his career as a teacher. Then he took a job in the Bank of Cooter. During his 12 years at the bank Rushing made a down payment on 100 acres of land east of Cooter, and when the bank closed during the national bank holiday, he and his wife moved to this farm. They farmed there five years. Then in 1939, Rushing bought a half interest in the cotton gin at Cooter and moved back to town.

The increased income he obtained from the gin served to supplement his returns from the 100 acres of good delta land and as time passed, Rushing began buying up adjoining land.

Today, though only 51 years of age, Abie Rushing owns 551 acres of the best land in the boot-heel country and has accumulated more than four-fifths of it since 1939.

To work out a well-rounded farm operation which would keep 15 families busy during the 180-day growing season, he found it profitable to rent some additional land. He is now farming 620 acres.

He leases 40 acres of improved levee pasture

and the remaining 580 acres are under cultivation. Rushing operates his farm on a long-range plan which he developed with the technical assistance of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service after farmers of Pemiscott County had organized a soil conservation district in 1945.

Of 580 crop acres, he had 100 acres of alfalfa this year, 320 acres of cotton, 80 acres of barley, 30 acres of corn, 50 acres of soybeans and the rest in rotation pasture.

"This is cotton country," Rushing said, "and until the old AAA, now part of PMA, moved in back in the early '30's we didn't know what a rotation was. We planted cotton year after year and shipped in our corn and hay.

"Under the AAA we had to diversify a little and then when we organized the soil conservation district and the SCS technicians came in, we really began to work out a program based on the natural capabilities of the land."

Rushing is using a six-year rotation which includes alfalfa. On 150 acres of his cotton land he seeds vetch during the last cultivation and plows this down the following spring for green manure. All cropland receives lime and fertilizer.

None of his farm land was drained when Rushing bought it but today nearly all of it has been brought into maximum production by a well engineered drainage system Rushing built with district assistance.

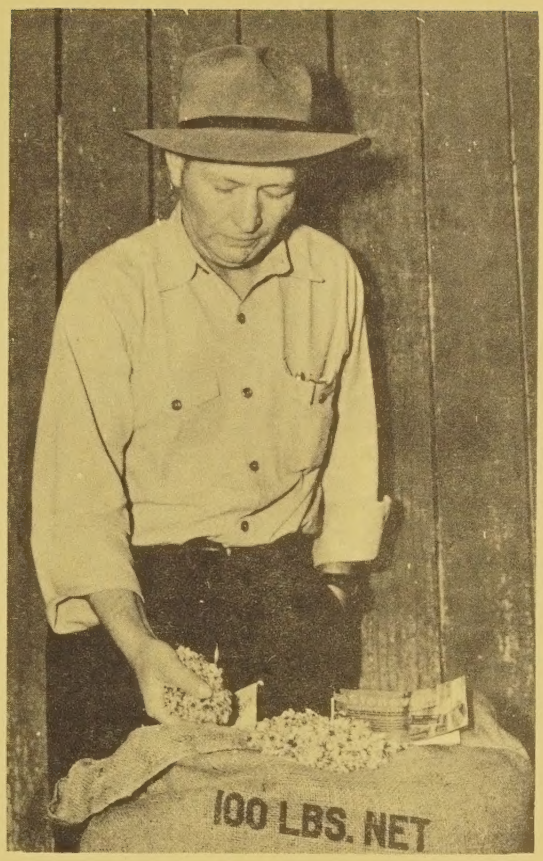
He has built two and a half miles of ditches and has done some land-leveling. His district plan calls for another quarter mile of ditch which he will soon build.

"Good drainage is the best investment I have ever made," Rushing said.

As proof of this statement he points to the marked increase he has had in crop yields. In 1951 his 320 acres of cotton produced 340 bales which is easily 200 pounds per acre higher than the county average.

He planted one 25-acre field that year to both corn and soybeans. From this field he took 1,340 bushels of corn and the beans averaged 32 bushels to the acre on the same land.

This is indicative of the results the ex-banker is getting from using the business principles of good management on the land. As a new sideline to his enterprises, Rushing is now producing certified cotton seed. He produces the seed on his farm, treats it and sells it back to the farmers who will raise more cotton next year to haul to his gin.



Abie Rushing, Cooter, Mo.

"I was in favor of a soil conservation district right from the beginning," Rushing said. A. H. Webb, who lives on a farm near Steele, was the first one who talked to me about organizing one under our Missouri state law. It sounded good then and it still does.

"Through his district the farmer can get any kind of technical assistance he needs and I know this has helped me do a better job of farming. The thing I like best is the fact that a district is under local management. No one from the state or Washington can tell us what to do and if we don't like one of our supervisors we can vote him out at the next district election."

By C. W. Gee
Information Division
Soil Conservation Service